



Iowa Department of Human Services

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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1314

DATE: November 15, 2013

TO: Iowa Medicaid Medical Equipment and Supply, Pharmacy, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Nursing Facilities-Mental ILL, Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) and Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual Disability State (ICF/ID State) Facilities

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Coverage of Custom Wheelchairs in a Nursing Facility

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2014

An administrative rules change allows for coverage of customized wheelchairs for members in nursing facilities when prior authorization (PA) has been granted. Before this change, the nursing facility was required to provide a wheelchair, whether standard or customized and to recover the cost in the cost report process. Nursing facilities are still required to provide standard wheelchairs.

A customized wheelchair is one that is designed, assembled, modified and constructed for the specific member, in whole or in part, based on the member's condition, measurements, and needs. The member's condition must necessitate the regular use of a wheelchair on a long term basis to enable independent mobility within the facility.

The medical equipment provider will supply and bill the IME for the wheelchair.

- Wheelchairs supplied by a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) supplier and paid for by the IME are the property of the member.
- If the member is discharged from the facility the member is to take the wheelchair with them.
- At death, the wheelchair becomes part of the member's estate similar to other personal effects.

The PA form, [470-0829](#), is located at <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Forms.html>.

For questions relating to Iowa Medicaid estate recovery please contact the Estate Recovery Unit at 877-463-7887 or locally in Des Moines at 515-246-9841 or email at estates@dhs.state.ia.us.

The IME appreciates your partnership as we work to improve claim processing. If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.